

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and
Petty-Statefmen, of all Sides.

Saturday, January 13. 1705.

THE happy beginning of this last War between *England* and *France*, in the unexpected Security of our Trade, and the unusual Destruction of their Privateers, as it was a great Discouragement to them, and exceedingly lessen'd their Numbers; so in proportion, it was a strange Advantage to us, and Encourag'd all the Nation.

Upon this Foot it was I advanc'd in my last, That were it to have continued so, we should have been able to have liv'd upon the War, and the *Assault* of Spain Excepted, have grown Rich with the War.

It Encourag'd our Merchants to Adventure, and to Launching out their Stocks in Foreign Trade; it lowered the Tremor's of Assurance, and began to affect the Prices of Freight of our Ships, and would in time the Wages of Seamen, which as a Consequence, would have sunk in Proportion.

And here I find room for a long Digression; and which 'tis some Mortification for me, to avoid, in which I might show the Grounds, Causes, Consequences and Remedies of several of our Capital Grievances in Trade; I shall satisfy my self with giving the Heads of what, if spoken to at large, would require many Volumes to deliver in that Order and Extent, the thing it self requires.

1. I might tell the World, the *James* pers

haps, would not believe me, that all the *Weights* which lie upon Trade, with respect to the War, are not occasion'd by, or produced from the War, as Consequences: But—Pardon me, O ye Commissioners of Admiralties, Navies, Trade, &c. from meer Mis-conduct, Ignorance, and want of Regulation of our Marine Affairs.

From hence, I dare at any time undertake to prove, concerning Pressing Seamen, and their Flying the Service; the one Illegal in its own Nature, and the other contrary to the Genius and Nature of our Sailors, who Nature love the Service, and the Fighting part, as any.

From hence come the Innumerable ill Consequences of Pressing, Dragging, and Forcing Men into the Service of their Country, which ought to be made desirable to them, and might easily be made so; some of these are,

First, To the Subject.

Secondly, To the Government.

I. To the Subject:

1. As Fightings, Mischief, and sometimes Murder; as in the Case of the *Honest Constable* at *Bow*, whose Blood lies yet Unsatisfy'd, and Justice never yet told us the Reason, Why it has suffered its Leaden Heels, to delay its Iron Hands so long, in a Case so Flagrant and Notorious, as Murdering a Civil

Y y y

Officer in the Bold and Faithful Discharge of his Duty?

2. Robberies, Thefts, and Insults of the Subjects, on pretence of Pressing.

3. Bribery, and a Multitude of ill Practices, in Discharging and Acquitting Men after they have been on Board.

4. Idleness of the Seamen; who avoid the Service, lurk about in the Countries, out of Employ, till the Fleets are out.

5. A General Dislike of the Service, and Disgust at that part of it, which put such a Force upon them.

II. To the Government; And these are,

1. A vast Expence of Ketches, Boats, Smacks, and Tenders, to Traverse the whole Coast of England; and spend several Months time to pick up Men.

2. Tedious Demorage of the Men of War, at a vast Charge while half Mann'd, for Victuals and Wages to those they have.

3. Ruine and Disappointment to all the Great Designs of our Governors, for want of having our Fleets ready in time to suit any sudden, or Extraordinary Occasion.

If I am ask'd the Reason of all this? I Answer: Besides abundance of other Reasons, and other Mens Reasons, to which I would give due Weight; I take upon me to say, 'Tis principally Owing to the Extravagant Wages given to Seamen in the Merchants Service. If I should say, This is the only Cause, I question whether I could be *Contradicted by Reason*; since 'tis evident, That while the Queen's Pay on Board the Fleet, is 23 s. per Month, and a Common Sailor can have 45 s. to 3 Pounds per Month afore the Mast in the Merchants Service, we must reckon that Seaman Mad or Drunk, who will quit the Merchants Service at 50 s. per Month, to be knock'd on the Head to the Tune of 23 s.

How easily would' this be all prevented by a little of that we call Method, by a little Application and Address.

How easie could the Author of this prescribe a Regulation of all this Matter, that we should press no more Seamen, and consequently Murder no more Constables, Rob no more Houses, or Pick no more Pockets, on pretence of Pressing Seamen.

That the Navy should never be Demor'd, or the Service Delay'd, and the Success of things Anticipated for want of Men.

But all the Charges of Victual and Wages in Ships half Mann'd, should be prevented; the Expence of Press-Ketches saved, and the Navy be Mann'd all at once, whenever the Government had occasion.

That Wages in the Merchant's Service should be no dearer in Times of War, than in Times of Peace, or at least but a Trifle; and Sailors that now receive 7 l. per Voyage to New-Castle, should Sail for 32 s.

That Coles should be as Cheap in London, within 5 s. per Chaldron in Time of War, as in Times of Peace.

How easie, nay, how much easier is it for the Government, to put these things in practice, than for the Author to write it.

And for the Occasion of it, let us appeal to all that understand Trade, and that have felt the Effects of the Exorbitant Rate of Seamen's Wages since the War, in the height of Freights and Prices of Foreign Goods, Coles, &c. and let them tell us, if they can, How many Millions it has stood this Nation in less than the whole War?

Let them cast up, by Political Arithmetick, if they know how, the vast Advantages the Seamen in general have made of it, and let 'em tell us, how much they are the Richer for it?

ADVICE from the Scandal. C. L. U. B.

THE Great Misfortune of our Society has been, that when they happen to have a Vicious Story to tell, there are so many Gentlemen put in for a Claim to the Character, that they have ten Accusers to one Fact; they therefore humbly crave of all the J——s that are Men of the Bottle, or that now and then take

occasion to Divert themselves a little with another Man's Wife, or the like, that they would not pretend the following Picture was drawn for them, unless they can prove they were actually Drunk at the Sign of the *King's-Head* some where or other, within the compass of six Months last past.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

YO U told us, in one of your Reviews, of three Bullies, that could not be Drunk in three Nights sitting; sure their Brains were Impregnable: For two of our Justices sat at the Kings-Head Tavern, but from 11 in the Forenoon, till 5 next Morning, and were both so Drunk, that they fell foul upon a Butcher's Wife: First they snatch'd away her Nosegay, then would have ball'd her into Drink. The Woman not yielding, they fell to Damning her for a Bitch, and swore they knew her to be a Whore, and to Bridewell she should go: But her Husband coming in the Interim, threatened their Workshops for Swearing, and for being Drunk, and Rescu'd his Wife out of their Clutches; the Justices Reel'd away towards C——ell Church. Pray, Gentlemen, are not these fit Tools to Correct Vice? If you question the Truth of this, I will tell you their Names and Places of Abode.

Upon reading this Letter, the Society declar'd, they would have nothing to do with it; for that it was the way to bring half the J——ces in the Nation upon their Backs; and they had long since had their Bellies full of Publick Resentment.

HERE is a very Difficult Case offered to the Society, and they agreed, That it was very hard to resolve, viz. How to Reclaim a Whoremaster, and not let his Wife know how it is with him.

Gentlemen of the Scandal. Club,

A Certain Master of a Family being suspected to follow Whores, was watch'd by some Persons, which said Persons did very often see him go into an ill House not far from S——ks-Market; one of the said Persons one Day followed him so close, that he caught a Woman in Bed with the said Housekeeper, he being unknown to them both, who be knew the Housekeeper very well: The said Housekeeper has a very Handsome and Young Wife, and the Poor Woman loves him intirely. Your Advice is humbly desired, what Course must be taken to Reclaim him; for if his Wife should know it, she would break her Heart for Grief.

Pray let me have an Answer in your next Tuesdays Review; and you will Infinitely Oblige

Decemb. 1.

Your humble Servant,

Ann Nemo.

1704.

Those Gentlemen that prescribe as to Methods in themselves Impracticable, seem like a Man that had his House on Fire; " 'Tis a brave Sight, says he; if it was not for having

" my House burn'd, I'd never put it out; The Man must not be Expos'd, in Tenderneſs to his Wife; the Vice cannot be more Expos'd, than in the Relation of the Fact: All the Advice therefore, the Society can give in the Case, is to desire the Person who sent this Letter, to send this Review to the Gentleman, and Acquaint him, " That thus tenderly they have us'd him now; but that, if he proceeds, they will Effectually Expose him.

But still the Society observe, That they will not Answer for the Effect of this upon the Man, but they crave leave to tell a short Story.

A Motion being made to Read a Bill in Parliament, to Punish Adultery with Death—— A certain Noble Man Objected against the Title of the Bill, which was call'd, *An Act for the better preventing the Sins of Fornication and Adultery*; and after some Debate, he desir'd, That the Title might be call'd, *An Act for the BETTER CONCEALING the Sins of Fornication and Adultery*.

They refer the Application to the Persons concern'd; and we dare undertake for the Guilty Person, That if our Advice does not reform him, it will make him have a care how they catch him again.

As to the Young Woman, they pity her; but they cannot agree, that she ought not to be Acquainted with it, for fear of breaking her Heart; since letting it alone till she gets from him what she may never dispose of again, seems to be a greater Cruelty than the Discovery can be; especially allowing the Fact to be true.

THE Society have had a great many Black Charges upon them, for endeavouring to resolve Peoples hard Questions, but never were Tax'd with being Philosophers before. This it is, Gentlemen, to set up for doing Publick Service——However all this will not Discourage them from endeavouring to give Satisfaction to all People, especially in Weighty and Important Cases, such as this following must be acknowledg'd to be.

Master Review,

I Hear that you are a Shrewd Fellow in Answering hard Questions, and a Plaguy Fylosofer; therefore I desire you to satisfy me in this Point.

I bought a Hog (no Kindred of R——S——s;) now if you want Particulars (as the other Conjurers do) of Hours and Minutes, I will send you the Place, where I bought it, and the Price; but not being about to have you cast the Nativity, because

'tis now out of the Power of the Stars, I will let it alone, and tell you that I K^tll'd it for to bear Company with a Turkey that walk'd up from the Country to see me; and one Side, both Leg and Chine, and all are very Fat, the Hog having had good Store of Peas and Whey, but the other Side as Lean as a Rake. Now the Question is, Why one part did not receive Nourishment as well as t'other? If you can tell me where the Fault lay, pray let me know, that I may avoid it afterwards; and if you will come and eat some Black-Puddings and Sausages, you shall have some October too, for your Pains; and shall be very welcome to

Your humble Servant,

January 8.

Roger the Observer's

1704.

Countryman.

Here the Society took the liberty to Acknowledge how much more just our Honest Country People are, than the Citizens; since Roger is sensible of the trouble we take, in answering long and doubtful Questions, and proposes a handsome Consideration for it; viz. Black-Puddings, Sausages, October Beer, and the like: How many long half sheets has the Author wrote, and never was ask'd to drink before?

The Society can never be Ungrateful to such an honest Fellow as this is, and Gravely apply'd themselves to answer the weighty Question about the Hog, which was Fat on one side, and Lean on the other.

And searching *Aristotle*, *Plato*, and others, among the Ancients, with the Famous *Harvey*, *Boyl*, *Riverius*, and their Brethren of the Moderns, all Philosophers, and so fo's, they found nothing of the Matter, and were going to return the Question *Ignoramus*; when one of the Society desired the Letter to be read a second time; and finding there the Hog had been fed with Peas and Whey, it presently occur'd, that these giving a vastly different Nourishment, by the *No Rules* of Royal Society Philosophy; it was very plain, that the Peas went on one side, and the Whey on the other; and so the Hog came to be half fat and half lean.

Experto crede Roberto.

THE Author of the *Elixir or Marrow* of News, may find a full Answer to his Cavil at the Societies Remark on his Paper, and the Nonsense and Inconsistency thereof farther Demonstrated; we hope to his Satisfaction, in the Supplement to this Paper. The Pub-

lication of it being defer'd till Tuesday next, by an unforeseen Accident.

ADVERTISEMENT.

* THE Royal Essence for the Hair of the Head and Perriwigs, being the most delicate and charming Perfume in Nature, and the greatest Preserver of Hair in the World, for it keeps that of Perriwigs (a much longer time than usual) in the Curl, and fair Hair from fading or changing colour, makes the Hair of the Head grow thick, strengthens and confirms its Roots, and effectually prevents it from falling off or splitting at the ends, makes the Powder continue in all Hair longer than it possibly will, by the use of any other thing. By its incomparable Odour and Fragrancy it strengthens the Brain, revives the Spirits, quickens the Memory, and makes the Heart cheerful, never raises the Vapours in Ladies, &c. being wholly free from (and abundantly more delightful and pleasant than) Musk, Civet, &c. 'Tis indeed an unparallel'd fine Scent for the Pocket, and perfumes Handkerchiefs, &c. excellently. To be had only at Mr. *Allcrafts*, a Toyshop at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill. Sealed up, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

AT the White Swan upon Snow Hill, over-against the Green Dragon Tavern, are made and sold the Newest Fashion Flower-Pots for Gardens; Urns, Eagles, and Pine-Apples, to stand upon Posts of Large Gates; also large or small Figures, all made of hard Metall, much more durable than Stone, and cheaper; also Candle Moulds, fit to make Wax or Tallow Candles, from 1 in the Pound, to 20: There is also made Artificial Fountains, that Play Water from 1, 2, or 3 Foot, to 20 or 30 Foot high, 1, 2, 3, or 6 Hours together, without Repeating with the same Water; which Fountains or Engines may be made use of to extinguish Fire 40 or 50 Foot high, with a continued Stream larger, than the Common Fire-Engines.

Books in Folio lately brought from Holland, and Sold by *Jeffery Wale*, at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-yard. Where is to be had, a Catalogue of Books lately brought from Foreign Parts. *Leideker de Republica Hebræorum*. Grotius de jure Belli & Pacis, 3 Vol. *Hornii Geographia*. *Ciampinus de sacris Edificiis*, fig. *Huetii demonstratio Evangelica* Paris Edit. *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus*. *Arrian cum notis Gronovii*. *Vaillant de nummis Antiq. Fam. Romanarum* 2 Vol. *Idem Numismata Græca*. *Idem Historia Ptolemæorum*. *Grævi*, *Thesaurus Antiq. Italix* 6 Vol. *Athanasii Opera* 3 Vol. *Petavii Doctrina Temporum* 3 Vol. *S. Pauli Geographia Sacra cum notis Holstenii*, *Stephanus de Urbibus*.